

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A basket for a washing machine, said basket comprising:

a body comprising an outer wall and at least one rib extending radially inward from said wall, said rib comprising at least a first portion having a first cross section and a second portion having a second cross section, said second cross section different from said first cross section, said outer wall including a plurality of apertures therethrough, said apertures arranged in single vertically aligned columns between adjacent ribs; and

wherein said rib comprises a first side and a second side, said basket further comprising at least one circumferential support band extending between said first side and said second side, said band extending from said outer wall.

2. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said rib extends substantially vertically.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said first portion is substantially rectangular in cross section.

5. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said rib extends radially inward from said outer wall for a distance of about 0.395 to about 1.5 inches.

6. (currently amended) A washing machine basket comprising:

an outer wall having an outer surface;

a plurality of ribs projecting radially inwardly from said outer wall, each said rib comprising a first end and a second end, said first end projecting a first radial distance from said outer wall, said second end projecting a second radial distance from said outer wall, said first radial distance less than said second radial distance; and

a plurality of apertures formed in said outer wall, said apertures arranged in single vertically aligned columns between adjacent ribs; and

a plurality of circumferential support bands extending outwardly from said ribs to a position substantially flush with said outer surface.

7. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 6, said rib comprising a transition portion projecting a variable distance from said outer wall, said variable distance ranging from said first radial distance to said second radial distance.

8. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said variable distance is about 0.395 inches to about 1.5 inches.

9. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 7, said transition portion further having a varying width.

10. (currently amended) A washing machine basket comprising:

an outer wall and a plurality of vertically extending ribs projecting radially inwardly from said outer wall at a distance of about 0.395 to about 1.5 inches, said outer wall including a plurality of apertures therethrough, said apertures arranged in single vertically aligned columns between adjacent ribs; and

wherein each said rib comprises a first side and a second side, said basket further comprising at least one circumferential support band extending between said first side and said second side, said band extending from said outer wall.

11. (previously presented) A basket in accordance with Claim 10, wherein said apertures are outwardly flared.

12. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said ribs are outwardly flared at one end thereof.

13. (canceled)

14. (withdrawn) A basket in accordance with Claim ~~13~~ 10 wherein said ~~supports~~
circumferential support bands are substantially flush with an outer surface of said wall.

15. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 10 wherein a portion of said rib is substantially triangular.

16. (currently amended) A washing machine basket comprising:

a substantially cylindrical outer wall and a plurality of inwardly projecting ribs depending therefrom, each said rib comprising:

a first portion having a first radially extending height from said outer wall and a first tangential width; and

a second portion having a second radially extending height from said outer wall and a second tangential width, said first height less than said second height, said first width greater than said second width[.];

wherein, said outer wall includes a plurality of apertures therethrough, said apertures arranged in single vertically aligned columns between adjacent ribs; and

wherein said rib comprises a first side and a second side, said basket further comprising at least one circumferential support band extending between said first side and said second side, said band extending from said outer wall.

17. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said first height and said second height are in a range from about 0.395 to about 1.5 inches.

18. (original) A basket in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said first portion is substantially rectangular and said second portion is substantially triangular.

19. (currently amended) A washing machine comprising:

a cabinet; and

a basket rotatably mounted in said cabinet, said basket comprising an outer wall and a plurality of radially inwardly projecting ribs extending from said outer wall, said ribs having a varying width between ends thereof, said basket further including a plurality of apertures therethrough, said apertures arranged in single vertically aligned columns between adjacent ribs; and

wherein each said rib comprises a first side and a second side, said basket further comprising at least one circumferential support band extending between said first side and said second side, said band extending from said outer wall.

20. (original) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 19, said ribs extending inwardly from said outer wall at a height of approximately 0.395 to 1.5 inches.